Minutes of Core Review Committee
Sept. 26, 2006

The Core Review Committee met on September 26, 2006 in Kirby 108. In attendance: Brian Whitman, chair; Philip Simon, Matt Brown, Andrew Miller, Marianne Rexer, Ernie Trujillo, Gina Morrison, Susan Hritzak, Diane Wenger, Ellen Flint, Amy Patton, Agnes Cardoni.

Minutes: The minutes of Sept. 14, 2006 were approved.

First Year Foundation Course Description: The committee reviewed the FYF course description approved last time (adding “earned in college classroom” to the 23 credit hour requirement) along with another version suggested by Matt Brown, that included an age requirement; i.e., students under 20 years with 23 credits or more would still have to take FYF.

Discussion:

* Some committee members indicated discomfort with putting an age requirement in the description.

* Non-traditional students –how to serve them with an entry type course; should they take the same FYF course as traditional students?

* Transfer students with 23 or more credits, regardless of age, need familiarization with Wilkes culture, not just a transition to college in general. We need to serve all students and welcome them to W.U.

* How to help foreign students fit in?

* Will students who have amassed 23 or more credits on-line be accommodated with the FYF experience?

* Should we allow transfer students who desire to take FYF (regardless of their credits) to do so, in consultation with their advisor?

After considering all of the above, the committee approved a motion (made by Brown, seconded by Morrison) to amend the description to say that students coming in with 23 or more credits “eligible, but not required” to take an FYF course. Dr. Whitman will draft a proposal for the Curriculum Committee on this change.

Procedure for WAC proposals: We have had two proposals for WAC. Dr. Whitman is consolidating various documents into a form that can easily be distributed to the committee. Dr. Rexer suggested that we prepare a cover sheet/check list with questions (e.g., did the dean and chair approve this? etc.) for committee members to refer to as we review each proposal. Dr. Rexer volunteered to meet with WAC consultant Greg Colomb to discuss how we might best handle the proposals.
**Multicultural and Global Awareness Across the Curriculum:** The committee reviewed a proposal drafted last year by Brian Redmond offering two approaches to changing the core: 1) add new area on multicultural and global awareness or 2) incorporate it into existing courses (following WAC model).

Professor Morrison urged the committee to move on this without further delay; she expressed great concern about the tone (and recent events) on campus, and reiterated students’ needs to learn how to cope in a multicultural world. She explained that the ad hoc task force on this issue identified several ways this might be done, through the core curriculum: adding another area, modifying FYF, adding new courses, or looking at multiculturalism and its four components and asking every area to say how they incorporate these components.

**Discussion:** Dr. Whitman indicated that FYF should not be the only place multicultural awareness is taught; Dr. Miller favored adding a new core area; Professor Simon suggested using the WAC model, and having departments identify courses that would quality; Dr. Rexer pointed out that some courses may have problems incorporating multicultural components (math, accounting); Dr. Flint suggested looking at core to see which courses already are incorporating the four components; Dr. Rexer noted that there was a survey done for the deans a few years ago listing courses that incorporate diversity; Professor Morrison commented that FYF is the place most schools are doing this. (She further noted that the orientation presentation, NWC, was not a good way to introduce students to diversity issues; Matt Brown responded that he found the presentation educational and enjoyable.)

Professor Simon proposed the next meeting be devoted entirely to this subject. Dr. Whitman offered to obtain a copy of the deans’ report; he and Professor Morrison will meet and discuss a proposed framework for adding multicultural awareness to the core and present it for discussion at the October 24 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wenger